THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) While the number of terrorist incidents in J&K and Naxalite affected States has gone down in the current year (upto June 30) as compared to the corresponding period of 2004, the number of terrorist incidents remains more or less at the same level in some of the NE States during this period. Available reports indicate that terrorist organizations particularly LeT and BKI are attemping to strike terror in J&K and some other parts of the country. The Naxalite outfits are also trying to spread their activities/influence in some parts of Karnataka, Kerala, Uttaranchal and Tamil Nadu. Terrorists intrude in India mainly through IB/LoC in J&K.

(c) The Central Government has taken various measures to tackle infiltration and terrorism which *inter-alia* include galvanizing the intelligence machinery, monitoring of well coordinated intelligence based operations, strengthening of the borders including coastal borders, modernization of State Police Forces & CPMFs, sharing of intelligence with State Governments on terrorist activities and supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in improving the social and economic conditions of the affected areas.

(d) Available reports indicate that the Naxalite outfits such as CPI (Maoist) are maintaining linkages with CPN (Maoist). Other terrorist groups like LeT, BKI, etc. are reported to be using the infrastructure of terror existing across the western border.

Registration of Private Security Agencies

†1018. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of private security agencies working in the country;

(b) whether it has ever been investigated that the above mentioned private security agencies are registered under private security rules;

(c) if so, the details of the above agencies, State-wise where they are working;

(d) whether it is also a fact that several private security agencies do not pay full salary to their guards; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, whether any investigation has been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) Police and public order' being State subjects, the matters concerning private security agencies come in the jurisdiction of State Governments. Therefore, no data is maintained of such agencies by the Central Government. However, to regulate the functioning of the private security agencies, Central Government has enacted a law namely "The Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005". In this Act, it is mandatory to obtain a licence from the appropriate authority of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to run such an agency. One year's time has been given to the existing security agencies to obtain licence from the appropriate authority. Only after such a system is put in place, the actual number of private security agencies will be known to the designated authority in the States/Union Territories. The above Act provides the necessary legal framework to oversee the functioning of these private security agencies including the payment of wages/salaries of the security guards etc.

Restoration of peace in J&K

1019. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to initiate talks with separate organizations of Jammu and Kashmir to help restore peace in the militancy hit State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also agree that there is an urgent need to work for stopping killings by restoring peace in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) if so, whether any measures have been chalked out to see how violence could end; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to carry forward a dialogue with all groups, which eschew the path of violence.